(c) whether it is a fact that the ongoing schemes suggested by Members of 10th Lok Sabha have not been completed due to lack of fund; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to release more funds for implementing those ongoing schemes and also for the schemes suggested for 1996-97 by Members of 11th Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE ON THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Government have received a proposal suggesting changes in the existing Guidelines on MPLADS.

(b) So far an amount of Rs. 112.50 crores have been released as first instalment for the year 1996-97.

(c) and (d) It is not a fact that the on-going schemes suggested by the Members of the 10th Lok Sabha have not been completed due to lack of funds. In fact, the first charge on the balance funds with the Collectors is that of the on-going schemes. As regards the schemes suggested for 1996-97 by Members of the 11th Lok Sabha, it is stated that instructions were issued to all the Collectors to process the recommendations of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament of the 11th Lok Sabha for the financial year 1996-97 without waiting for release of funds. Further orders sanctioning the release of the first instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs per MP for the year 1996-97 were also issued on 1.8.96. The release of funds is regulated having regard to the available balances with the Collectors based on the requisitions received from them. Accordingly, funds are being released on the basis of the requisitions received from the Collectors. Further releases are expedited.

Effect of SEB Dues on the Functioning of REC

667. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether non-recovery of outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards has adversely affected the functioning of the REC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-COVENTIONAL ENERGEY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): Yes, Sir. the non-payment of dues by State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has had an adverse impact on the financial health of the Corporation besides restricting its ability to recycle the funds for rural electrification programmes in the country. It has also impaired the capability of REC in negotiating loans with multinateral lending organisations and mobilisation of funds through market borrowings.

Seismic Surveys for Oil Exploration in Gujarat

668. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC have conducted any seismic surveys for oil exploration in Gujarat, including gulf of Kutch, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether oil reserves have been located in these surveys; and

(d) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir, ONGC has conducted, seismic surveys in Gujarat. However, no seismic survey have been carried out in Gulf of Kutch during the last three years.

(b) the details of seismic survey carried out by ONGC during the last three years, area-wise are as follows: